S/S 7822704

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

December 23, 1978

Copies to:
D
P
S/S-S
TMC
ARA
CA
RF
(DTM)

Dear Joe:

Pursuant to your request of November 27, we asked the Government of Guyana to provide a copy of the letter concerning Jim Jones that you had allegedly signed. Our Ambassador in Guyana, John Burke, has just been informed by the Guyanese Minister of Information and Culture, Mrs. Shirley Field-Ridley, that after an intensive search, her ministry has been unable to locate a copy of any such letter. It is our understanding that if a copy of such a letter were in the possession of the Government of Guyana, it would likely be in the files of the Ministry of Information and Culture. Mrs. Field-Ridley also told Ambassador Burke that the only record that had been found relating to you in the files of her ministry was contained in a compendium of comments attributed to leading political, religious and local figures which had been published by the Peoples Temple.

I hope you find the above information helpful.

With regards,

Sincerely,

Chris

Warren Christopher
Acting Secretary

The Honorable
Joseph A. Califano, Jr.,
Secretary of Health, Education
and Welfare.

Drafted:ARA/CAR:RMcCoy:mdk
12/13/78 x23449
S/S# 7822704

Clearances:ARA/CAR:AHewitt
ARA:BHGrove
ARA:JABushnell

7822704

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

UNCLASSIFIED

DEC 20 1978

TO : The Deputy Secretary

FROM : ARA - Viron P. Vaky

SUBJECT: Letter from Secretary Califano

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Should you sign the attached letter to Secretary Califano.

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

Secretary Califano wrote you on November 27 requesting that the Government of Guyana be asked to provide a copy of the letter that he allegedly signed concerning Jim Jones. Ambassador Burke in Georgetown has reported that the Minister of Information and Culture informed him that the Government of Guyana was unable to locate a copy of any such letter. The Minister indicated that the only record of this letter was in a compendium of letters published by the Peoples Temple.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached letter to Secretary Califano at Tab 1.

Revised & retyped in D.

Attachments:

1. Reply to Secretary Califano's letter.
2. Secretary Califano's letter dated November 27, 1978.
3. Georgetown telegram No. 4352.

Drafted:ARA/CAR:RMcCoy:mdk
12/13/78 x23449

UNCLASSIFIED

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20201

7822704

November 27, 1978

The Honorable Warren Christopher
Deputy Secretary
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Chris:

This will confirm my request this morning in our telephone conversation that you formally ask the Government of Guyana to provide a copy of the letter it is alleged I signed concerning Jim Jones.

We have thoroughly checked our files at HEW since I became Secretary and the files at my former law firm for the year 1976, and we have found no such letter. Moreover, I have absolutely no recollection of ever signing such a letter. Accordingly, I have substantial doubts as to the authenticity of this alleged letter.

I should appreciate your handling this as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

PAGE 01 GEORGE 04352 191850Z 7099
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 H-02 HEW-06 NSC-05
PA-02 /038 W
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P 191745Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8497

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 4352

FOR ARA/CAR

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CASC, GY, OREP (RYAN, LEO)
SUBJ: CALIFANO LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLES TEMPLE.

1. THE AMBASSADOR HAS SPOKEN DIRECTLY WITH THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY REGARDING A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION WRITTEN ON BEHALF OF REVEREND JIM JONES BY SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE JOSEPH CALIFANO. MINISTER FIELD-RIDLEY STATES THAT DESPITE AN INTENSIVE REVIEW OF THE FILES IN HER MINISTRY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNCOVER A COPY OF SUCH A LETTER. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO SECRETARY CLAIFANO THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE IN THEIR FILES IS CONTAINED IN A COPY OF A HAND-OUT PREPARED BY THE PEOPLES TEMPLE, A BOOKLET CONTAINING WHAT ARE PURPORTED TO BE QUOTES FROM CELEBRITIES ABOUT PEOPLES TEMPLE. THIS PAMPHLET IS ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE DEPARTMENT.
BURKE